

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8223

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, DPRO, UR

SUBJECT: PAYMENT FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE AND TELEX
FACILITIES BY U.S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

PARIS FOR RFC; DEPT FOR EUR/EX AND EB/ITP/EWT

1. EMBASSY PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN TIME CONSUMING PROCEDURE COVERING COLLECTIONS OF MONIES DUE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TELEPHONE AND TELEX CALLS PLACED BY U.S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES OVER EMBASSY FACILITIES IN USSR. PROCEDURE CALLS FOR AMERICAN EMBASSY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (AECA) TO FIRST PUT UP FUNDS TO PAY THIS PORTION OF MONTHLY POST AND TELEGRAPH BILLINGS, THEN AECA INFORMS ECONOMIC SECTION WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH BUSREPS PARENT ORGANIZATION TO EFFECT COLLECTION AND REFUND TO AECA. THIS SYSTEM IS NOT ONLY TIME AND MANPOWER CONSUMING, IT BUILDS DELAYS IN REPAYMENT TO THE POINT THAT OVER \$1,300 DELINQUENT PAYMENTS REMAIN OUTSTANDING TO AECA. EMBASSY AND AECA DO NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS AND PERSONNEL TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE.

2. IN EFFORT TO EFFECT PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF POST AND TELEGRAPH COMMUNICATIONS BILLS WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED FIVE DAY GRACE PERIOD ALLOWED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND AT SAME TIME CONTINUE PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE AS ADVERTISED IN USDOC PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATED IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THE EMBASSY PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING:

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A. PORTION OF TELEPHONE AND TELEX BILLINGS ATTRIBUTED TO U.S.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE USE WILL BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT FUND 19X6875 SUSPENSE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AT TIME OF PAYMENT COPY OF COVERING VOUCHER WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SHOWING NAME OF CALLER, NAME AND PLACE CALLED, COST OF CALL OR MESSAGE, AND NAME OF PARENT COMPANY OF BUSREP FROM WHICH COLLECTION OF REIMBURSEMENT SHOULD BE MADE.

B. THE DEPARTMENT, ACTING ON THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE POST, WILL TAKE STEPS TO EFFECT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE 19X6875 ACCOUNT.

3. IF THE ABOVE SUGGESTION IS NOT FOUND TO BE FEASIBLE THE EMBASSY FEELS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO RESTRICT THE USE OF ITS FACILITIES TO ONLY THOSE BUSREPS PREPARED TO PUT UP LARGE DEPOSITS AT THE TIME EACH CALL IS MADE OR MESSAGE SENT. (A TEN-MINUTE CALL TO NEWYORK COSTS OVER \$35.00.) THIS WOULD SOON REACH A CHAOTIC STATE BECAUSE OF LACK OF POST AND AECA PERSONNEL AND FISCAL SECURITY TO HANDLE COLLECTIONS OF THIS NATURE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT IS URGENTLY REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE ABOVE PROPOSAL AND ADVISE THE POST ASAP OF ITS DECISION SINCE THE PROBLEM IS RAPIDLY BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT.
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